

THE

POTRERO VIEW

March, 1999

Volume XXX, No. 2

FREE

Parkland Funding On New Seesaw

By Judy Baston

Following a seesaw series of dramatic reversals in city funding recommendations, Friends of Esprit Park is launching a major letter-writing campaign in support of preserving the public funds for purchase of the Potrero Hill parkland.

The fiscal flip-flops began last fall, when the staff of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept. recommended to the city's Open Space/Park Renovation Citizens Advisory Committee that the effort to purchase the Minnesota Street parkland receive no money at all from the Open Space Fund for this coming year.

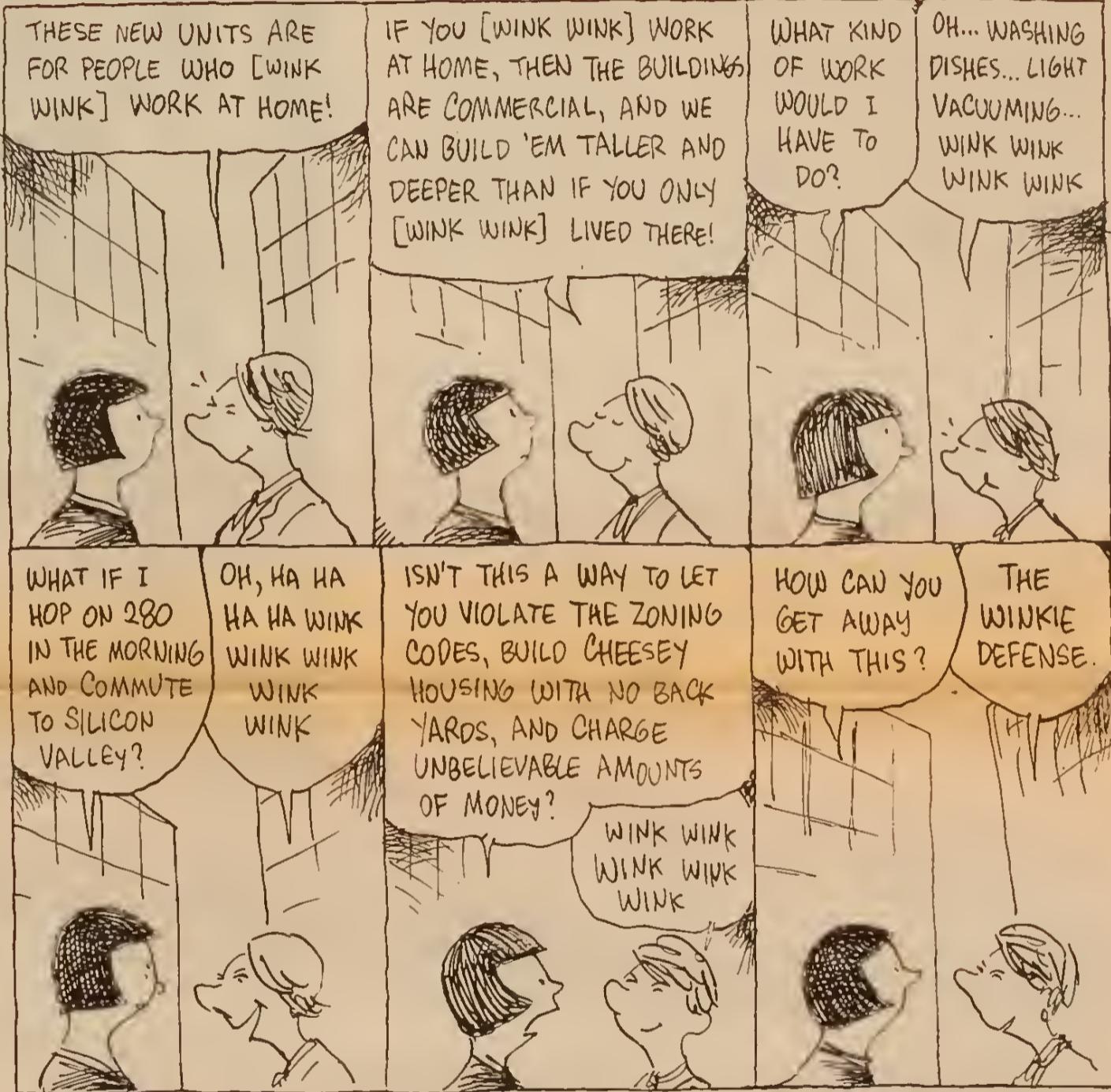
Supporters of the Esprit Park purchase had secured \$1 million — mostly in previously "banked" money from the Open Space Fund but also through donations from neighbors—to purchase the park from the Esprit Corp. At that point, it appeared that Esprit might be willing to agree to a purchase price of \$2 million, and that the effort to raise the funds was halfway to its goal.

Members of Friends of Esprit Park sought to convince the Open Space Advisory Committee to overturn the staff recommendation, and, indeed, on Dec. 1, at the Committee's next meeting following the staff recommendation, they voted to allocate \$1 million for the coming year towards the purchase of Esprit Park.

Following that Committee vote, a resolution was introduced at the Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Tom Ammiano (joined by six other Supervisors) and passed unanimously Dec. 21 by the Board. It urged the Committee to maintain Priority One status for Esprit Park Funding and to maintain the preliminary budget allocation of \$1 million toward the purchase of Esprit Park. The resolution was subsequently signed by Mayor Willie Brown, who earlier last year had told Esprit Park supporters that purchase of the parkland was a top priority for his office.

"The park has always been open to the public and has provided priceless park land otherwise unavailable to the diverse communities of Dogpatch, Potrero Hill and the Third Street corridor for over 15 years," the Board of Supervisors resolution noted. "The City's purchase of Esprit Park is a unique opportunity to obtain an existing, fully-developed park almost two acres in size and complete with mature trees, strolling paths and open lawns."

(Continued on Page 4)



Two More Live-Work Proposals Set for Review at March Hearings

A pair of key public hearings slated for March will consider two proposals for additional live-work units on Potrero Hill — only the latest in a long series of such structures that have been mushrooming in the area.

As of Feb. 19, a total of 1,870 units have either opened, are under construction, or are under review on Potrero Hill and the surrounding area. While nearly 2,000 units are up or are in the pipeline, only 32 units have been denied approval.

Between January 22, 1998 and December 31, 1998, 920 units were approved by the Planning Commission — with 471 units approved with no Commission hearing at all.

During this period, 40 units were denied approval by the Planning Commission, but four of these denials overturned by the Board of Appeals.

Although many of these units are billed as "artists live-work spaces," the low-end average selling price per unit is \$350,000 - \$400,000.

The Planning Commission hearing on March 18 is slated to deal with a propos-

al to develop 78 live-work units at 1325 Indiana St.

And the hearing on March 25 will deal with a proposal for 16 live-work units slated to be developed at 1000 Pennsylvania Ave.

For specific times that the matters will be slated on the Commission calendar, call the Planning Information Center at 558-6377.

Key Demolition Hearing
—STORY ON PAGE FIVE

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (March 4) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. The Forum takes place at 7 p.m. in the Community Facility downstairs at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps. This month's meeting will focus on MUNI's plans for the 3rd Street Light Rail system, affecting the Bayview, the Stadium, Ballpark, Mission Bay project, etc. Refreshments after the Forum.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month, (March 8) from 6-7 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin St., are open to the public.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (March 9). The meetings start at 7 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro. The March meeting will feature discussion of the proposed "Living Wage Ordinance."

Starr King Park Board of Directors meets the second Wednesday evening of each odd-numbered month (next meeting: March 10), in the Potrero Library upstairs meeting room, 1616 20th Street, at 7 p.m. The Saturday work parties (9:30 - until 11:30 a.m.) will continue every month on whichever Saturday follows the second Wednesday of the month (Mar. 13). The park is located at Carolina and 23rd Streets.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets in executive session only this month. Anyone wishing to raise an issue for consideration by the board may phone Elizabeth at 826-6359.

Potrero Hill Boosters Neighborhood Assn. meets the last Tuesday of the month (March 30) at 7:30 p.m. in the Potrero Library -- 1616-20th Street.

Potrero Hill Garden Club meets the last Sunday of the month (March 28) at 11 a.m. for a potluck brunch in a local home or garden. Informal discussion will be held on a variety of subjects relating to organic, edible or ornamental gardening appropriate for Potrero Hill's particular mini-climate. Please call 648-6740 for details.

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Happy Birthday . . .

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY: Sholem Aleichem, Audrey Baptiste, Sally Burns, Vincent Caborara, Pat Cleaver, Nat "King" Cole, Nanette Dorr, Wyatt Earp, Veva Edelson, Nanette Dorr, Betty Garvey, Dorothy Goff, Emma Goldman, Bryne Golec, Lol Halsey, Ernesto Hernandez, Rebecca and Jeff Hostetler, Rosalina Koopman-Rowe, Della Lopipero, Katherine and Emilie McNeil, Tom Murray, Steve Passin, Maribel Rodriguez, Sally Seymour, Vincent Van Gogh, Sarah Vaughn, Lavette Virden, Steve Voris, Hazel Wolfe (101!)

POTRERO POSTCARDS



Recently, St. Teresa's Church and the Potrero Hill Archives Project joined together to print four beautiful color postcards. Each card shows a different stained glass window at the church. The window pictured above, showing St. Teresa, is one of the oldest in the church — it survived the moving of the building from Tennessee Street in 1924. At that time, the church was cut in half and each section was dragged up the hill to its present location on 19th Street. The postcards are for sale and are available for 75 cents each at: St. Teresa's Rectory, 390 Missouri St.; Christopher's Books, 1400-18th St.; Farley's, 1315-18th St., and Klein's Deli, 501 Connecticut St.



EDITOR: Ruth Passen

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Judy Baston

EDITORIAL BOARD: Vas Arnautoff (1925-1998), Judy Baston, Ruth Passen

MARCH STAFF: Lysa Allman-Baldwin, Judy Baston, Linda Clark, Maya Ullou-Charbonneau, Michael Dingle, Bernie Gershater, Larry Gonick, Abby Johnston, Ann Longknife, Marylouise Lovett, Winifred Mann, Denise Meblin-Kessler, Carol Peterson, Julia Segrove and Lester Zeidman.

Editorial and policy decisions are made by the staff. All staff positions are voluntary.

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LIBRARY NEWS

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Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: Noon - 6 pm



NEW FACES OF 99

Potrero Library is happy to announce two additions to our staff. Library Technician Assistant Art Arrieta comes to Potrero from the Community Relations Department of the Main Library, and Library Page Jose Garcia resumes his duties after six months in Italy, having previously worked at the Mission Branch. Both are students at San Francisco State. Welcome Art and Jose!

BILLY DUNN DANCE BAND HEADLINES ARTISTS RECEPTION

The Billy Dunn Dance Band will headline the Reception to Honor the Artists at the 44th Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition, opening here on Saturday, April 10, from 7-9:30 p.m. The unjuried exhibit runs from April 10 to May 15.

Artists who live, work or study on Potrero Hill are invited to submit one work, sturdily framed, prepared with wire, ready to hang, with the work's title and medium and the artist's name attached to the submission.

The deadline for submitting a piece is no later than 5 p.m., April 6. Work will be gladly accepted before that date. All submissions must be retrieved no later than May 15 at 5 p.m. All works must remain at the library for the duration of the exhibition. The San Francisco Public Library cannot be responsible for damage to or loss of the work.

Questions regarding the exhibition should be directed to Bob Whaley at (415) 255-2382.

READ ALOUD DAY, MARCH 11

Thursday, March 11, is Read Aloud Day, and the San Francisco Public Library will participate in read aloud programs organized by the San Francisco Unified School District in classrooms on that day. The following is based on "Reading to Infants and Toddlers: 10 Tips to Share with Parents," which appeared in the July, 1993 issue of *School Library Journal*:

1. Have a special reading routine established. Having a regular reading time helps a child know when to look forward to a story. (Of course, you can read at other times, too).

2. Timing is important. Don't read to a fussy baby, but wait until the child is ready to sit still and pay attention. Read when YOU are in the mood to do so. If you are having a bad day, it will affect your reading.

3. Choose a book that is not only appropriate for the child, but that you like too. This makes the experience more enjoyable for both of you, and you'll probably do a better job.

4. Hold the child so that the pictures can be seen easily. A newborn will focus more on your voice than the pictures, but as babies reach the point where they can hold up their heads and focus, the ability to view the pictures is important.

5. Allow the child to assist you in the reading experience. Particularly with a boardbook, the child can help turn pages if you keep all the pages except the one to be turned, in your right hand.

6. Point to and identify things in the pictures as you read. As an infant gets older, you can encourage him to point to the pictures, as you read about them.

7. React positively to the child's attempts at naming objects, turning pages, or forms of verbalization. Even the smallest attempt is a step in the right direction. Positive reinforcement does make a difference — including with babies.

8. Use your voice as a tool that makes reading exciting and interesting. In general, using a quiet, soft voice is best, but there are times when your voice can show excitement, surprise, or any number of other emotions.

9. Tune into the child's development stages. For example, from about five to nine months, a baby usually will attempt to handle a book as you read it. Have something else ready for the baby to chew, pull, or tug at while you maintain possession of the book.

10. Be responsive to the child. Watch for visual cues that say that they have had enough, such as crying, pushing to get off your lap, or arching back. Knowing when to stop is as important as knowing when to start.

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR CHILDREN

There will be three special children's programs in March.

On Saturday, March 20, at 4 p.m., join us for story telling with actress and storyteller Gina Scher.

On Wednesday, March 24, from 6-8 p.m., join with representatives of Children's Book Press and students and teachers from Starr King School for Stories and Art that Honor our Ancestors.

On Saturday, March 27, at 4 p.m., as part of the Building Bridges multicultural program, Just Kidding will perform traditional folk songs and music.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

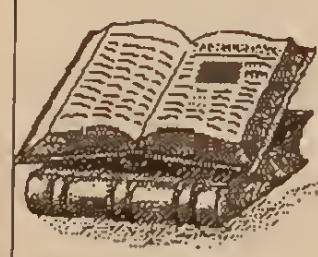
Infant and Toddler Lapsit will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays, March 18 and 25. Children's Story Time will take place at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, March 17, 24, and 31. The film, "Harry, the Dirty Dog," will be shown on Tuesday, March 2, at 10 a.m., and Wednesday, March 3, at 7 p.m.

The monthly feature, COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER, will resume in the next issue.

Toba Singer
Branch Librarian

THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.



TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

POTRERO HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL FUROR

The school newspaper, the Potrero Hill Beat, was censored by the school administration in February 1989 because of stories about drugs, prostitution and AIDS. Public pressure and a letter from the American Civil Liberties Union persuaded Superintendent Ramon Cortines to release the offending editions. The dispute brought to the fore other outstanding causes of dissatisfaction at the school — including poor communication between staff and administrators, lack of parent participation, harassment of teachers and fear of retribution for speaking out, and failure to implement the Consent Decree. Principal Dr. Sam Rodriguez was reassigned at the end of the semester.

PG&E TANK SLOWLY DISAPPEARS

What had been a 26 story "landmark" was slowly lowering as PG&E was dismantling its Pennsylvania Street gas tank. At a five-story level in early 1989, the tank was slated to disappear completely within the next couple of months.

PICKLE FAMILY EXCHANGE WITH USSR CIRCUS

Pickle Family Circus members Peggy Snider and Judy Finelli joined a tour to the Soviet Union, visiting circuses in Moscow, Riga, Tashkent and Samarkand, as well as circus schools that youngsters enter at the age of 14. The Pickle travelers hoped to see continuing exchanges, with Soviet-American shared evenings, in which the Soviets do what they do best, their highly gifted technical acts.

REZONING REPORT DUE ON EASTERN SIDE OF POTRERO HILL

25 residents met at Daniel Webster School in February, 1989 to discuss perspectives for the vacant area between Texas, Missouri, Sierra and 22nd Streets currently up for sale. The zoning proposal was first introduced as a plan to turn the entire eastern area into a residential neighborhood within 20 years. The City was currently considering allowing current industrial owners to remain indefinitely, beyond the 20 year limit that present zoning regulations require. Some neighbors argued for using money from the Open Space Fund to buy part of the land for a park.

FURLough APPEAL FILED

Despite a unanimous Planning Commission decision in January to grant a conditional use permit for a work furlough program on Indiana Street, a group of property owners filed an appeal with the Board of Supervisors. A hearing was set to be held in March, 1989, at which the votes of 8 or 11 Supervisors would be required to overturn the Planning Commission decision.

DE ROSA GROCERY TO CLOSE

After 13 years, Ramzi Mughannam announced that he had lost his lease and was selling all groceries, wine and liquor on Saturdays only through March, 1989, at the 20th Street store.

POTRERO CHURCH DELEGATE GETS A SCARE IN EL SALVADOR

Lisa Lloyd joined a church-sponsored delegation of students and professionals to El Salvador. They visited Morazan, an isolated area in the northeast, where people had established their own elected councils to take care of production, education and health care. The national government provided nothing but bombing attacks. When they left the area they were held at a military checkpoint for continuous interrogation, by a man who claimed to be Salvadoran, but spoke English with a Texas drawl, and spoke very poor Spanish. They were kept another night in a detention center and threatened with beatings. When a U.S. Embassy representative finally arrived, he advised them to sign a statement that they had not been mistreated, or they might not be released. They signed under duress, and were deported back to the United States.

HILL ARTIST WINS FAME FOR DOLLHOUSES AND BIRDCAGES

Eric Lansdown, a Hill native creates elaborate birdcages and Victorian dollhouses out of wood. His work is in demand all over the world. His work has been sold in Gumps and Neiman Marcus, and in Harrod's in London, and has been featured in Architectural Digest and House and Garden. He has two studios on the waterfront at the foot of the Hill, where he employs two full-time workers and some part-time help.

AND TWENTY YEARS AGO

PG&E proposed to build a new power plant at 23rd and Illinois Streets . . . a group of residents gathered to form a neighborhood housing rights organization to confront issues of rising rents, condo conversions, and evictions . . . Congressman Phil Burton announced that approximately 140 SF minority youths would be prepared for apprenticeship entrance examinations under a renewed contract from the Department of Labor . . . Former Congresswoman Bella Abzug was to be the keynote speaker at a rally in support of the Equal Rights Amendment . . . memorial services were held for Hannah Goldstine, who died in February, 1977 at the age of 97. She and her husband Samuel had operated Munter's dry goods store at 18th and Connecticut Streets for 35 years . . . The View profiled its cartoonist Larry Gonick, who gave up a promising career in mathematics to become a cartoonist, and produced several editions of "A Cartoon History of the Universe."

— Bernie Gershater



Park Supporters Urge Letter Campaign To Back Open Space Fund Allocation

(Continued from Page 1)

The Board of Supervisors resolution also warned that "the available property in surrounding neighborhoods continue to be developed largely as live-work units which do not provide open space for their occupants or the community," and the resolution added, "the current needs for parks and open space will become even more acute as the eastern portion of San Francisco continues to be developed."

In the resolution, the Board of Supervisors also resolved to urge the General Manager of the Recreation and Park Dept. "to maintain the Priority One status and budget allocation of \$1 million towards the purchase of Esprit Park in his FY 1999-2000 budget proposal to the San Francisco Planning Commission."

Yet despite the clear intent of this resolution, the fate of Esprit Park funding for the coming year suffered a considerable—if temporary—setback when the department staff issued additional recommendations. Not only did the staff fail to restore the \$1 million allocation recommended by the committee, but the staff actually recommended taking away \$500,000 of the previously "banked" Esprit Park funds to be spread among other projects.

Members of Friends of Esprit Park geared up for the next meeting of the Open Space Advisory Committee, with eight activists testifying at the Feb. 9 Committee meeting.

Friends of Esprit Park's Mariucci Iaconi stressed to the Committee that the park is already in existence and pleaded with the body for the funds to purchase the park. She warned that without the purchase to keep it as parkland, there would be "an invasion of vultures circling and ready to turn the land into live-work units."

Iaconi told *The Potrero View* that concerns of Esprit Park neighbors about the parkland are significantly fueled by the proliferation of live-work units springing up in the area. "The prices of these units are totally out of line," she noted, adding, "it's just a way to get around" regulations.

Following presentations by Iaconi and other Esprit Park supporters, the Open Space Advisory Committee voted 16-2 to overturn the second

staff recommendation and they voted to allocate the full \$1 million for the coming fiscal year.

The fiscal seesaw facing Friends of Esprit Park may well reflect a number of potentially related complications.

Because of continued cost overruns on the repairs to King Pool in the Bayview/Hunters Point community as well as the demands of other projects, Open Space Funds still face a budgetary deficit.

Esprit has now taken the parkland off the real estate market and has promised the city the first chance to buy it. But Esprit's current financial plans are unclear and—especially with the proliferation of live-work units in the immediate neighborhood—some supporters of parkland purchase are concerned that the corporation might want to sell the parkland with the adjoining building.

Friends of Esprit Park are asking all Potrero Hill residents who support the

purchase of the parkland to write to Joel Robinson, General Manager of the San Francisco Recreation and Park Dept., requesting that he maintain the final funding allocation of \$1 million towards the purchase of Esprit Park recommended by the Open Space Advisory Committee.

His address is:
**Mr. Joel Robinson
General Manager
Recreation and Park Dept.
McLaren Lodge, Golden Gate Park
501 Stanyan St.
San Francisco, CA 94117**

The Friends also request that Mayor Willie L. Brown be sent a copy of each letter. His address is:

**Mayor Willie L. Brown
San Francisco City Hall
1 Carleton Goodlett Place
San Francisco CA 94102**

Friends of Esprit Park can be reached at 641-7884

Poet/Teachers Set to Read At Farley's On March 6

Christopher's Books, California Poets in Schools, and Farley's Cafe are sponsoring a special reading of poets from all over the state on March 6.

These published poets are leaders in their respective communities and commit their time to teaching poetry to students in more than 250 schools to 25,000 students around California.

Readers include: Arthur Dawson, John Barbato, Terri Glass, Be Herrera, Andrea Ross, Dian Sousa and Susan Terence.

The reading, set for 8 p.m. March 6, at Farley's, 1315-18th St. will be the kick-off for a special project that is sponsored by Christopher's Books and California Poets in the Schools. Poetry Opens Doors will celebrate National Poetry Month this April.

Christopher's Books on 18th Street on Potrero Hill, will display the poetry of 60 San Francisco students from grades K-12. Customers and community members will be encouraged to select and purchase a book for each student to be presented at the end of April. This will be a special way to honor the creative work and aspirations of San Francisco children and youth.



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107

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Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

- Al-Anon
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Girls/Boys Club
- Narcotics Anonymous
- Omega Boys Club

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- Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
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- Arts and Crafts
- Food Distribution
- Gang Prevention
- Girls/Boys Club
- Graffiti Paint Out
- Juvenile Probation
- Home Supervision
- Peer Counseling
- MET Theatre Ensemble
- Senior Nutrition Program
- Social Development Center
- Tutoring Program
- Youth Employment MYEEP/SYETP Job Readiness
- ZAP Project (substance abuse day treatment for adolescents)

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What could possibly go wrong?

Fate of Connecticut Street Victorian at Stake

In Final Demolition Hearing Slated for March 17

By Carol Peterson

The Board of Appeals for the City Planning Dept. will meet on March 17 to decide whether the property owners of 407 Connecticut St. will be allowed to demolish the current structure and rebuild it according to their plans.

Neighbors are hoping that the Planning Dept. will uphold the current Residential Design Guidelines by forcing the owners — real estate developers Allan and Lorraine Thompson — to abandon their major expansion plan for the property. If approved, this plan would result in a five level structure with seven bedrooms and provisions for only two off-street parking spaces.

Those opposing this plan charge that its design could easily be adapted to allow the new structure to be rented as a four-unit building. Additionally, they emphasize, the proposed structure would threaten the surrounding single-family dwellings by interfering with light and ventilation due to its greater height. Some inhabitants of the new building would also have the opportunity to look directly into their new neighbors' bedrooms due to the angle of the design, a feature that the present residents view as a possible invasion of privacy.

Paul Minton, a business strategy consultant who moved with his family into the area in 1980, has been primarily responsible for coordinating the opposition to the plans. The Thompsons vacated this property about the same time that Minton arrived in the neighborhood, and moved into a new home that they built on another lot on Connecticut Street. Their original home, a well-preserved Edward-

ian-Victorian was built c.1902, as were several of the other homes in this block.

Since the Thompsons' move to the large four-story duplex that they currently occupy, the Victorian house has been vacant. When in 1997 they filed for not only a building permit, but a demolition permit as well, the neighbors got involved.

The original permit was modified by the Planning Dept. to include some changes, but the existing plan is still unacceptable to their neighbors. The group went to the department and was told to "work it out" with the owners.

Minton and allies searched for ways to have the design reviewed again, and, with the help of Steve Williams, attorney at Fitzgerald, Abbott, & Beardsley, they filed for a Discretionary Review to stop the demolition and rebuild and replace it with a design that was of lesser height and more consistent in appearance with the surrounding structures.

The Discretionary Review was based on the idea that the Thompsons' design conflicted with the City's General Plan, Planning Code's Priority Policies and Residential Design Guidelines because it was not consistent with the character of the neighborhood and was therefore in direct violation of Proposition M, a voter mandate to govern new residential construction in existing neighborhoods. The commission heard the case in February, 1998 and decreed that the plans be altered to take off the top story, setting a precedent.

The hearing on the appeal has been rescheduled several times and many appeals deadlines have passed without the issue being resolved. The March 17 hearing is the Thompsons' last opportunity to appeal.

Minton believes if the owners lose their appeal, it will make it more difficult for other four-story buildings to spring up on the Hill and cast the existing structures into shadow.

He urges the community to write letters to the Planning Commission and attend the March 17th hearing.

"This case provides Potrero Hill resi-

dents with a great opportunity to draw the line and establish a precedent against overbuilding in ways that are out of character with our community. Such building violates Prop M — which is the City's law — and the Superior Court has ruled the city must enforce," he stresses. Minton can be reached at 648-6700.



You are invited to a

UCSF Mission Bay Community Meeting

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for the first building on the new
Mission Bay campus.*

Monday March 1, 1999

7:00 p.m.

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at 2nd & King Streets

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to ILWU Hall parking lot

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Port Puts off Promoters Of Pan Pacific Expo 2002 Following Public Protest

By Carol Peterson

Representatives from waterfront businesses and clubs along China Basin Street (Terry Francois Blvd.) attended the Port Commission's February 9 meeting to try to dissuade the Port from signing a letter of intent with the promoters of Pan Pacific Expo 2002 until further facts were gathered.

This event, which is billed as hosting 50,000 visitors a day for six to eight months in 2002, would result in the "relocation" of as many as 45 current tenants of Piers 48 through 54 for up to two years, if not permanently.

Promoters of this ambitious project were dismayed to find themselves lacking the Port's endorsement after several speakers convinced the Commission that signing the letter without further input from the public would be premature, if not imprudent. The first public meeting on the subject was scheduled for February 10, a day after the letter of intent was expected to be signed.

The tide could be seen to turn as one speaker after another expressed concern over the impact that the event would have over the area and its maritime usage. Not only would the event displace two local yacht clubs and many maritime businesses, the area in question contains the only public launch ramp in the city. This ramp was slated to be improved with a budget of almost 1.9 million dollars, but current development plans and the Giants traffic plan for the downtown ballpark have held up the ramp expansion.

Dick Millet of the Potrero Boosters Neighborhood Assn. charged that Port approval without a public hearing would be "irresponsible, if not criminal," especially since its actions would eliminate a number of maritime interests that the Port is sworn to protect.

Westar Marine, to whom the Port granted a ten-year lease when ballpark construction forced them to relocate in 1997, stated they believe their company, which provides tugs and bar pilots to visiting ships, could not survive another move. Dick McKnight of Safe Harbor Distributing also spoke of his losses in revenue and inventory due to his recent move. Ironically, the Port maintenance facility would be relocated, as it shares Pier 50 with these other businesses.

Concerns were not limited to the financial arena. John Super, Commodore of the Bay View Boat Club, who represented the Bay View and the Mariposa Yacht Club at the meeting, is also a recently relocated tenant of the Port. He brought up the expected traffic nightmare the ballpark is sure to bring,



Muni Metro East MAINTENANCE FACILITY

3rd Street Light Rail Project

Community Open House

Wednesday, March 3

Southeast Community Center
1800 Oakdale Avenue
(@ Phelps-2 Blocks west of Third Street)
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the Project Hotline at 415.703.6655 or
Visit Our Website at <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/muni>

Muni is holding an informal community open house to provide information and seek public comment on a proposed light rail storage, maintenance and operations facility to support the new Third Street Light Rail project. The proposed site is located between Cesar Chavez, Illinois, and 25th Streets.

Port to Seek New Bids For China Basin Launch Ramp

Port Planners and Engineers held a meeting on Feb. 19 with recreational boaters and members of the former Waterfront Advisory Board to discuss the Pier 52 Public Boat Launch Ramp, the only public boat launch in San Francisco. Because all the bids were higher than the \$1.5 million available to build the new launch ramp, and because they have expired, it is expected that they will be rejected by the Port Commission, probably at their meeting March 9 at 4 p.m.

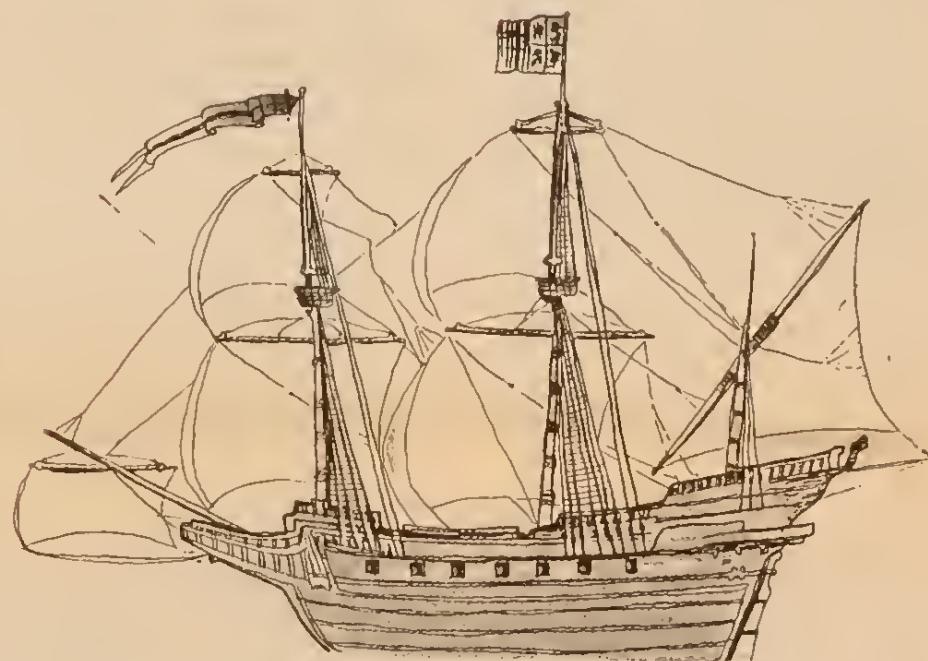
The Port has agreed to go ahead and request new bids to build the parking lot across China Basin Street (Terry Francois Blvd.) to accommodate boat trailers and two vehicles, as there will be no on-street parking for boat trailers once the road is resurfaced to accommodate access to the Pac Bell Park parking lot on Port Seawall Lot 337, as well as two bicycle lanes. Port Engineer Carleen Ilo hopes that because the engineering work has been done, bids can be awarded soon enough to ensure that the parking lot will be open by April 2000.

The port is also willing to explore the possibility of improving the existing boat launch ramp to make it safer and also to comply with ADA handicapped access requirements. Local architect and boating advocate Ron Wallace has agreed to bring some preliminary designs to the Port for review.

Port Planning Director Paul Osmondson made a commitment to boaters that the Port will seek additional funding from the California Department of Boating and Waterways to build the new launch ramp. John Super, Commodore of the Bay View Boat Club, and David Lewis, Vice Commodore of the Mariposa-Hunters Point Yacht Club, assured the Port that the boating community will support the Port's efforts and will also look for funding sources.

For further information, or to find out how you can help, contact John Super, Commodore or Corinne Woods, Waterfront Committee Chair, of the Bay View Boat Club.

- C.P.



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THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN's ART MUSEUM is looking for volunteers interested in gaining experience in museum education to act as docents for the Gallery and Tour program. Interested people should call Kristina King at 772-9977.

CARDEN WORKDAY AT MISSION CREEK Saturday, March 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Mission Creek Garden, 300 Channel St., near the houseboats. Cost is \$5 for SLUC members and \$10 for non-members. To learn how to become a member of SLUC, call 285-7584.

HOSPICE BY THE BAY is offering a free, one-day meditation class for both volunteer and professional caregivers of people with HIV/AIDS and other life-threatening illnesses. The class will be held on Sat., March 27, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Headlands Institute near Rodeo Beach in the Marin Headlands. It is limited to the first 30 registrants. Master Shitaido instructor Haruyoshi Ito will teach breathing techniques to build energy, meditation for calming and safe stretching exercises. For more info. call 626-5900.

TSUNAMI FUSION FEST AT THEATER ARTAUD, presented by the Theater of Yugen, will feature leading international theater artists, dancers and musicians in new works on the leading edge of contemporary Asian and Asian-American performing arts, April 7-18. All performances on Wednesday through Saturday are at 8 p.m. There are also Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., & Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$13 to \$18, and can be obtained at the Theater Artaud box office, and at BASS and TIX. For info. call 621-0507.

ZEUM PRESENTS "Brooklyn Bound," New York composer Mikel Rouse working with local teens to produce a segment of his multimedia opera "The end of Dinematics," at ZEUM, SF's art & technology center for youths ages 8 to 18. Free open rehearsal March 6 and 7, 12 to 4 p.m., performances March 13, at 8 p.m., March 14 at 2 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3.50 ages 5-18, under 5 free. Call 777-2800 for information.

STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE WOMEN OF CUBA is the theme of Bay Area Radical Women's International Women's Day celebration. Speakers will address the devastating effects of the U.S. blockade on the women and children of Cuba and present feminist strategies for ending the embargo. Sun., March 14, 2:30 p.m., at New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission St. An authentic Cuban dinner buffet will be served at 5:30 p.m. for an \$8 donation. For info. or childcare call 864-1278.

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THE CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY presents an exhibit entitled "Carriage Days-California Costumes," consisting of garments dating from the period between 1840 and 1910, March 18-May 22. Also on display will be "Stay East Young Man: California Gold Rush Letter Sheets," a collection of lithograph and wood engravings used as stationery during the Gold Rush days, with many letters describing the miners' disappointment with the conditions they had to face. 678 Mission St., for info. call 357-1848.

SENIOR ACTION NETWORK'S MARCH MEETING will discuss seniors' fight to strengthen Social Security for future generations. Thurs., March 11, 10 a.m. to noon, at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough, at Kearny.

FIRST AID FOR ANIMALS; a special class at the SPCA, Sun., March 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., including CPR, choking rescue, stopping bleeding, treating burns & minor wounds, taking vital signs & handling and moving injured animals. Cost is \$40. Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-637-PETS.

SPRING ARCHITECTURE LECTURE SERIES at Calif. College of Arts and Crafts, (CCAC), 450 Irwin St. at 16th and Wisconsin Streets. Monday nights at 7 p.m., through April 26. Admission is free. For info. call 703-9562.

EVENTS IN MARCH AT THE COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER, 544 Capp St., include: The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble presenting "Iolanta" by Tchaikovsky, Sun., March 7, 3 p.m., \$10 donation, \$5 for seniors & children; Mon., March 8, 5:30-6:30 p.m. a free jazz piano concert by Fred Hersch; Sun., March 21, 3 p.m. a free concert by the San Francisco Children's Chorus. Registration for new students will be by appointment Fri., March 26, 3-7 p.m. and Sat., March 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 647-6015 or 221-4515.

THE SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY ASSOCIATION presents a program, entitled "San Francisco's Robin Hoods of the Prohibition Era." The guest speaker is Bruno Buti, who was raised among bootleggers, and has written two books about the era. Thurs., March 25, 7 p.m., at The Cannery, 3rd Floor Conference Center.

THE CALIFORNIA BACH SOCIETY will perform the rarely heard second version of Bach's St. John's Passion, Sun., March 14, 7:30 p.m. at St. Gregory Nyssen Episcopal Church, Mariposa and Dellarro Streets. Tickets are \$20 general admission, \$15 for seniors, and \$10 for students. To order tickets call 650/299-8616.

ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL IS SPONSORING a free community lecture; "Oh My Aching Feet" with an emphasis on diabetic foot care, Sun., March 27, 10:30 a.m. to noon. To register call 641-6465.

"A WALK AROUND THE WORLD," an exhibit of travel and documentary photography by Monica Baum will be shown at Coat Hill Pizza from March 1 through April 30. An artist's opening reception will take place at Coat Hill on Sunday, March 7 from 2-4 p.m. Call Wynn at 641-1440 for more information.

ON SUNDAY, MARCH 28, the Bay Area Book Reviewers Assn. (BABRA) pays tribute to distinguished Northern California writers with the 18th annual BABRA Awards at the Cowell Theatre at Fort Mason Center. Admission for the event, which includes the awards ceremony and booksigning, followed by an hors d'oeuvre and beverage reception, is \$12 for adults and \$8 for seniors, students with ID, and groups. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. For more info contact Poetry Flash, (510) 525-5476.

CHILDREN'S WORKSHOPS AT THE LEGION OF HONOR: Saturday programs are free after museum admission. "Big Kids/Little Kids" is for ages 3½ to 6. Parents and children explore and develop their creativity together by seeing works of art and participating in art-related activities. "Doing and Viewing Art" is for ages 7 to 12. Docent-led tours are followed by studio workshops. March 6, 13, 20, 27 from 2 to 3:30 p.m.

DANCER'S GROUP STUDIO THEATER presents "Sonic Luminescence," directed by Kim Epitano, a dance theater piece with original music, exploring contemporary and transcendent ideas of faith, using the sound of light as kinetic inspiration. Performances are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 26-28, and Thursday, through Sunday April 1-4, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$13. Call 824-5044 for reservations.

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THE LILLI ANN BUILDING — landmark at 17th and Harrison Streets—was sold last year, and the mural that adorned the building at the corner of Treat and 17th Streets was covered with whitewash. Artist Jesus Campusano, who designed and painted the mural, died in 1997, and his family has initiated a lawsuit and is seeking funds and support to protect this mural and all others in the Mission. A "Mission Tradition" benefit to raise money for the legal defense fund to save the Lilli Ann Mural will take place Saturday, March 6, from 6 to midnight at the Cell Gallery, 2050 Bryant. The evening will be filled with art, music and food. Admission is a donation of \$10. For more info or to make a donation call 641-1116.

SF/SPCA IS HOLDING ORIENTATIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS Saturdays, March 13 and 27, from 10 a.m. to noon, and Tuesdays, March 2 and 16, from 5-7 a.m. at 243 Alabama St. For info. call 554-3087.

MODERN TIMES BOOKSTORE presents Terry Kupers, author of "Prison Madness," an exposé of the failure of today's correctional system, especially for those suffering from serious mental disorders. Kupers is a psychiatrist and professor at the Wright Institute in Berkeley. Thurs., March 18, 7:30 p.m., at the bookstore, 888 Valencia St.

SF REC/PARK DEPARTMENT offers free dance and singing classes for 3-5 year olds. Mondays from 9-9:45 a.m., at the Harvey Milk Recreational Arts Building, 50 Scott St., at Duboce. Space is limited. Call for more info. at 554-9523.

UCSF HOSTS WOMEN'S HEALTH SYMPOSIUM: More than 25 topics will be discussed including women's sexual health, herbal remedies & dietary supplements, menopause, learning to negotiate, & being a successful patient in a managed care setting. State Sen. Jackie Speier will deliver the keynote address. Sat., March 10, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the UCSF Campus, 513 Parnassus Ave. Cost is \$40 for adults, \$30 for seniors. Fee includes lunch, snacks and live entertainment. To register call 263-0321. In addition, for the third year UCSF will host a Teen Health Symposium, exclusively for young women 13-18, concurrently with the Women's Health event.

UCSF PRESENTS A WORKSHOP FOR OLDER ADULTS on alternative medicine, free and open to the public, on Saturday, March 13, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., at the Laurel Heights Conference Center, 3333 California St. For more info., 750-5342.

An eight-week discussion group for people whose parents were Jews in Nazi Europe, survivors of camps, in hiding or refugees who fled before the war will be held Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Jewish Family and Children's Services, 423 Presidio Ave. For more info on cost, and/or to register by Mar. 22, call Sheryl Croden, 449-3844.

Footloose, the women's work performance group, celebrates International Women's Work series, which has produced works by more than 300 women artists since they opened in 1996. Performances will take place every Tuesday night in March at Venue 9, 252 Ninth St. (between Folger & Howard Streets). Shows begin at 8 p.m., and there is a sliding scale admission of between \$6-10.

Nabe Social Development Center Dance Program Set

Hill artist and resident Kim Epifano directs a performance of senior citizens who are clients of the Developmentally Disabled program at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

Epifano is the artist in residence at the Neighborhood House who has molded the talents of these clients — most of whom have spent all their years in programs like the ones at the "Nabe".

The performance, entitled "Tomorrow's a Nice Day Two," takes place April 1 from noon - 2 p.m., with clients performing dance, song and skits — even those clients who are mobile only thanks to their wheelchairs.

Epifano, whose grants from the Calif-

ornia Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts make the program happen, is a professional dancer who appears in performances throughout the Bay Area as well as nationally, and says she is constantly "amazed over and over again by the talents of the clients."

Artwork by the clients will be on display at the Neighborhood House, as well as at the Edge Festival at Dancers Group in the Mission district in June.

Epifano is assisted by the staff and teachers at the Nabe, in this sixth annual show. This special performance takes place April 1, at the Nabe, 953 De Haro St. The general public is invited to attend this free event.



Cecilia Fierro, Kim Epifano and Monroe McLeod in dramatic presentation.

Claude Sprague photo

Vintage Fashion Expo Slated

The Vintage Fashion Expo, the largest clothing event of its type in the nation, will kick off its 11th season in Northern California with a 1999 weekend spring show March 13 and 14 at the Concourse at 8th and Brannan Streets.

The San Francisco Expo once again will feature more than 100 dealers from across the country selling timeless and classic clothing, textiles, jewelry and accessories from the 1850s through the 1970s.

Regular shopping hours will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6. An early buying session on Saturday runs from 8:30 to 10 p.m. and admission is \$20.

Special entertainment attractions will be a part of each day's program. A second Expo is set for the Concourse September 18 and 19.

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Vasilisa and Baba Yaga With Puppets at Marsh

What do a hut with chicken legs, a talking doll, and a witch have in common? You can find out in the haunting tale "Vasilisa and the Saga of Baba Yaga", told with original puppets at The Marsh (1062 Valencia St.) on Saturday, March 27 and on April 3 at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5-8 sliding scale.

Sneaky Pete Ensemble revisits the classic Russian folk tale about the heroic quest of a poor peasant girl named Vasilisa. Tricked by her crooked stepmother, Vasilisa ventures alone into the forest where she encounters the ancient witch Baba Yaga, who lives in a hut on chicken legs and likes to eat little children. With the help of a magic doll and the blessing of her dying mother's love, Vasilisa triumphantly completes her journey, rejoins her lost father and finds genuine romance with the Prince.

"Vasilisa and the Saga of Baba Yaga" blends different puppetry styles includ-

ing shadow puppets, rod puppets, hand puppets, large costumes, masks, and Banraku-style puppetry. A trio of musicians will accompany each performance with original music.

Sneaky Pete Ensemble is a group of actors, musicians, artists and craftspeople working together to create dynamic, original and unique works of theater appealing to audiences of all ages and incorporating live performers, masks, puppetry, illusion and music.

"Vasilisa's" writer and designer, Chad Owens, has been involved with theater in the Bay Area for 18 years. He has designed numerous shows throughout the Bay Area including "Aga-pe." Director Elchanan Pulitzer has directed and assisted directed around the United States at numerous theaters including, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Seattle Opera Company, and Santa Fe Opera Company.

Call 826-5150 ext. 2 for information and reservations.



Sandhya Adnepos manipulates young Vasilisa (left) in her encounter with the witch Baba Yaga.
Tatianna Rogier photo

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'Hundreds of Sisters' Gives Glimpse of Counter-Culture

"Hundreds of Sisters and One Big Brother," written and performed by Deborah Swisher, opens Saturday, March 13 at Brava Theater Center (formerly the York Theater) at 2789-24th St.

The show comes to San Francisco after a highly successful extended run Off-Broadway in New York. It is directed by Elyse Singer.

"Hundreds of Sisters and One Big Brother" is a one-woman, 10 character play based on Swisher's experience as a Black and Jewish girl whose hippie childhood in Berkeley is dramatically altered when her Flower Power Mom decides to move the family into a commune—Synanon. (Her mom was a Jewish school teacher and her father an African-American drummer.)

The show is an amusing and harrowing look at life growing up with a family of about 2,000 others. In Synanon, young members are taught to accept the other children as siblings and are separated from their parents for weeks at a time.

Despite the good intentions at the group's founding, over time "paradise" changes.

While providing a rarely seen glimpse of quintessential American counter-culture, the play also raises key questions about the definition of family and the perplexities of growing up and leaving home. This work was originally developed at the Sundance Institute in 1994. It has also been workshoped at The Public Theater and N.Y. Theater Workshop in New York, ACT in San Francisco, and the HBO Workspace in LA.

Performances are Wednesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. with an additional Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. There will be two previews prior to the opening on March 10 and 11. There is a regular performance on Friday, March 12, and the show opens on Saturday, March 13. Tickets prices are \$12 Wednesdays and Sunday matinees; \$13 Thursday nights and \$15 Friday and Saturday nights. Previews are priced at \$10. For reservations call, 415/647-BTCC (2822).

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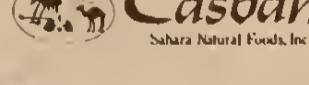


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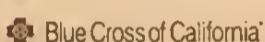
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